

(c) The Ministry of Coal is monitoring the implementation of these delayed projects. the Ministry and coal companies follow-up with the concerned State Governments in expediting pending land cases and also with equipment manufacturers to ensure early supply/commissioning of equipment. For providing adequate funds for the on-going projects, coal companies have taken steps to mobilise resources through internal generation, Supplier's Credit and external borrowings. For projects where cost overrun takes place, item-wise cost increases alongwith reasons thereof are examined in depth at the time of formulation of revised cost estimates which are approved by the competent authority.

[Translation]

Electric Railway Engines by BHEL

3129 DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI :

SHRI SOHAN BEER :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of electric railway engines manufactured by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited till date;

(b) whether the Government contemplate to enhance the production capacity of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the target fixed for manufacturing electric engines during the Ninth Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The number of Electric Railway Engines (Electric Locos) manufactured by Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) till 07.03.97 is 102.

(b) to (d) The present production capacity of BHEL is 30 Electric Railway Engines (Electric Locos) per year. The enhancement of their capacity depends on the requirement of the customer viz., the Indian Railways. As per the present capacity, BHEL can manufacture 150 Electric Engines (Electric Locos) during Ninth Five Year Plan period.

[English]

Gold Smuggling

3130. SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a spurt in gold smuggling during recent years through the Airport in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details of gold seized from different airport in Kerala during each of the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Seizures statistics and intelligence reports indicate an increase in attempt to smuggle small quantities of gold at airports in

Kerala by passengers returning from abroad.

(b) The details of gold seized at the airports in Kerala during last three years are as under :-

Year	No. of cases	Value of seizure (Rs. in Lakhs)
1994-95	323	384.72
1995-96	989	956.00
1996-97	1254	1210.05

[Translation]

Court Decisions

3131. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that a large number of cases are lying pending in various courts;

(b) if so, the policy of the Government to dispose of such cases out of court; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government launched an Arrears Clearance Quarter, commencing from 2nd October, 1996. Every District Judge in the country was requested to organise atleast one Lok Adalat on 2nd October, 1996 and, thereafter, as many Lok Adalats as may be possible during the said quarter, holding atleast one Lok Adalat on every Saturday/Sunday. Further, Lok Adalats were recommended at every taluka level also. In addition, Nyaya Panchayats, and other alternative methods of dispute resolution are also being made use of.

[English]

Potable Alcohol

3132. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently given approval to M/s. Bacardi International and M/s. Pernod Ricard for manufacturing potable alcohol from molasses;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the views of the Ministry of Food Processing were taken into account before arriving at a decision; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. M/s. Bacardi International and M/s. Pernod Ricard have been granted approval for manufacture of Potable Alcohol, subject to the condition that only Rum would be manufactured out of molasses as a raw material. The other products would be manufactured out of non-molasses raw materials. The approvals are also subject to the condition that no fresh capacity for manufacture of potable liquor shall be allowed and that the existing licensed capacity of the joint venture company will be limited to the licensed capacity of the Indian partner, i.e., the proposed joint venture shall use the existing valid licence of the Indian partner (s) for the manufacture of the proposed products.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Import of Gold

3133. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of gold imported in the country during the last year;

(b) the quantity of gold in the Government stock;

(c) whether the Government have lent gold to any firm for making jewellery; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Smuggling Activities At Border

3134. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ
BHAI CHIKHALIA:
SHRI RATILAL KALI DAS VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the smuggling activities on large scale in some districts of Gujarat and Rajasthan border;

(b) if so, whether some foreign fishermen come there in their boats for smuggling particularly in Bhuj area;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to plug the smuggling activities in the State; and

(d) the amount of articles seized by the Government during the last three years in these areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Smuggling Heroin

3135. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has become the gateway of smuggling heroin, hashish and other narcotics to western destinations;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) the number of cases that have come to the light during the last three years wherein heroin was either caught while smuggling in/out of the country and the persons at the back of this trade; and

(d) the action taken against them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) India continues to face trans-~~it~~ trafficking in narcotic drugs from across the borders, especially in heroin and hashish, generally destined to the western destinations.

(b) Government has taken necessary legislative and administrative measures including the following to combat drug trafficking :-

i) Instructions have been issued to all the enforcement agencies to maintain the utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts under the stringent provisions contained in NDPS Act.

ii) The dedicated narcotic cells are operational in Police and the Customs and Central Excise formations in the border States.

iii) 2/3rd of Indo-Pak border has been fenced and provided with flood lighting.

iv) BSF and Coast Guards, who are deployed on land and coastal borders, have been vested with powers under the Customs Act to interdict narcotic drugs on the border in addition to the several Central and State Government enforcement agencies empowered under the NDPS Act.

v) Training is being imparted to officers to improve their effectiveness. Vehicles and communication equipment have been provided.

vi) Reward scheme for informers and enforcement officers is being implemented zealously.

vii) Quarterly coordination meetings chaired by DG, NCB are held regularly in New Delhi which are attended by all Enforcement agencies involved in fighting against drug trafficking, at the highest level.